

Message Text

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ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 DODE-00 PM-03 TRSE-00 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9590

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

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DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY AND DEFENSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, GW

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: INCREMENTAL COSTS OF STATIONING
US-NATO COMMITTED FORCES IN EUROPE

REF: STATE 87896

1. IN PRELIMINARY CONTACT GAO FRANKFURT BRANCH HAS INFORMED US THAT DURING ITS VISIT TO THE EMBASSY IT IS MAINLY INTERESTED IN AN EVALUATION OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO THE US FORCES STATIONED IN GERMANY, INCLUDING FACILITIES, REAL ESTATE, ETC., AND IN EXAMINING IN DETAIL THE FULL NEGOTIATING RECORD LEADING TO THE LAST OFFSET AGREEMENT.

2. WE HAVE TOLD THE GAO THAT WHILE WE HAVE GERMAN ESTIMATES CONCERNING THE VALUE OF SERVICES MADE AVAILABLE OUTSIDE OF THE OFFSET AGREEMENT TO THE US FORCES, THE US FORCES WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION
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TO COMMENT ON THESE.

3. OUR FILES ON THE NEGOTIATING HISTORY OF THE LAST AGREEMENT CONSTITUTE A FULL FILE CABINET DRAWER OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY CABLES, STATE AND OTHER AGENCY DRAFTS FOR NSC CONSIDERATION, NSC DOCUMENTS, LETTERS AND PAPERS FROM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, AND DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING IN DEFENSE, TREASURY, AND OTHER AGENCIES. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT ON THE BASIS OF THESE FILES TO FOLLOW THE OFFSET NEGOTIATIONS IF, IN PARTICULAR, NSC DOCUMENTS ARE REMOVED.

4. WHILE THE EMBASSY OF COURSE WISHES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES IN 4 FAM 930-934, TO FULLY COOPERATE WITH THE GAO, WE ARE NOT SURE TO WHAT EXTENT THE NEGOTIATING HISTORY DOCUMENTS FALL UNDER SECTION 934.2 SUBSECTION C OF 4 FAM. DOES THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE US TO MAKE OUR FULL FILES AVAILABLE TO THE GAO; OR, IF NOT, SPECIFICALLY WHAT DOCUMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE REMOVED; OR WOULD DEPARTMENT PREFER TO DISCUSS OFFSET NEGOTIATING HISTORY WITH GAO IN WASHINGTON AND THERE MAKE AVAILABLE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS.

5. GAO OFFICERS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL STARTING OPENING OF BUSINESS ON MONDAY, APRIL 28.

6. WE WILL NEED INSTRUCTIONS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS FRIDAY, APRIL 25, IF WE ARE TO SCREEN OUR FILES.

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